

II. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A communications device comprising:

means for transmitting a signal to another party; and

means for controlling the signal level with which said transmitting means transmits, wherein said controlling means is arranged to control said signal level to be initially relatively low and to increase said signal level until a connection is established with said another party, and when a connection is established with said another party, to increase said signal level to another level that exceeds, ~~wherein said signal level has a maximum value to which the signal level it can be increased when no connection has been established with said another party, said maximum value being less than the signal level used when a connection with the another party has been established wherein when a plurality of another parties are provided, said communications device attempts to establish a connection with a closest another party of the plurality of another parties.~~

2. (Original) A communications device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said control means is arranged to control the power of said signal.

3. (Previously Amended) A communications device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said control means is arranged to control the signal level of the transmitted signal to be one of only two

levels, the initially relatively low level and the increased level.

4. (Previously Amended) A communications device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said signal level is initially at a starting level and is increased to the relatively low level.

5. (Previously Amended) A communications device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said starting point is no signal.

6-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A communications device comprising:

means for receiving a signal from another party; and

control means for controlling the a signal level with which said signal is received, wherein said control means comprises an attenuator wherein keeping said signal level is initially relatively low and increasing the signal level until a connection is established to a level not exceeding a maximum value, and when a connection is established with said another party, increasing said the signal level to a level exceeding the maximum value, wherein when a plurality of another parties are provided, said communications device attempts to establish a connection with a closest another party of the plurality of another parties. is increased.

10. (Original) A communications device as claimed in claim 9, wherein said control means is arranged to attenuate the signal level of the received signal by a first amount or a second amount only to provide the initially relatively low level and the increased level.

11. (Original) A communications device as claimed in claim 9, wherein said signal is arranged to be attenuated by a starting amount and the attenuation is reduced to provide signals at the relatively low level.

12. (Original) A communications device as claimed in claim 11, wherein said starting point is maximum attenuation.

13. (Previously Amended) A communications device as claimed in claim 9, wherein attenuation of the received signal level is decreased until a connection is established with said another party.

14. (Original) A communications device as claimed in claim 13, wherein said attenuation has a minimum value to which it can be decreased when no connection has been established with said another party.

15. (Original) A communications device as claimed in claim 14, wherein said minimum value is greater than the

attenuation used when a connection with the another party has been established.

16. (Previously Amended) A communications device as claimed in claim 9, wherein no attenuation is applied to the received signals when a connection has been established.

17-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Amended) A communications device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said communications device is one of the following devices:

point of sale device; ticket gate device; and information kiosk; ATM.

20. (Previously Amended) A communications device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said connection with said another party is a wireless connection.

21. (Original) A communications device as claimed in claim 20, wherein said wireless connection is a high frequency connection.

22. (Original) A communications device as claimed in claim 21, wherein said high frequency connection is of the order of giga Hertz.

23. (Original) A communications device as claimed in claim 22, wherein said wireless connection is a Bluetooth link.

24. (Original) A communications device as claimed in claim 20, wherein the wireless connection is an infrared connection.

25. (Previously Amended) A communications device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said another party is a mobile telephone.

26. (Currently Amended) A communications method comprising the steps of:

transmitting initially a signal to another party at a relatively low signal level;

increasing said signal level until a connection with the another party is established, wherein said signal level has a maximum value to which it can be increased when no connection has been established with said another party; and

increasing the signal level with which signals are transmitted to said another party when said connection has been established wherein said maximum value is less than the signal level used when a connection with the another party has been established, wherein when a plurality of another parties are provided, said communications device attempts to establishes connection with a closest another party of the plurality of another parties.

27. (Currently Amended) A communications method comprising the steps of:

receiving a signal from another party;

attenuating said received signal by a first amount;

establishing a connection with the another party;

decreasing or removing the attenuation applied to said received signals when a connection has been established, wherein a plurality of another parties are provided, said communications device attempts to establishes a connection with a closest another party of the plurality of another parties.